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Several living Opossums, for Dr. C. D. Meigs, Dr. Watson, and Dr. Wilson.

Heads of echinal spines from the Sivalik Hills. Presented by Dr. Morton.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

Iconographie Ornithologique ; par O. Des Murs. Liv. 9. 4to. Presented by Mr. Edward Wilson.

Revue Zoologique. Nos. 7 and 8, 1847. Deposited by Dr. Wilson.

The National Magazine and Industrial Record. Edited by Redwood Fisher. 18 Nos. complete. New York, 1845--46. From the Author, through Mr. Thomas Fisher.

The following extract from a letter from Prof. Haldeman, dated 11th November, 1847, was read.

"Herpetologists now suppose that Salamandra *erythronota*, Green, and S. *cinerea*, Green, are opposite sexes of the same species. The two are frequently found under the same stone or log, but I have never seen one with intermediate characters. I recently found six individuals and submitted them to dissection. Four of *cinerea*, opened successively, proved to have gravid ovaries, and two of *erythronota* to be males; but to be certain, I submitted the seminal matter to microscopic examination, and found spermatozoa, although not fully developed. Subsequently I found two *erythronota* with gravid ovaries, so that not being sexual, and no intermediate forms having been observed, I am induced to believe that Green was right in proposing two species."

Stated Meeting Nov. 23, 1847.

Vice President Morton in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Fossil Saurian bones in a matrix of conglomerate, comprising several vertebræ, parts of paddle, &c., probably an undescribed extinct animal. Found near Hossack Creek, Berks Co , Pa., five or six feet below the surface. Deposited by Dr. Joel Y. Shelley, of Berks county.

Specimens in spirits, of Leptophis oestivus, and Coluber eximius. Presented by Dr. Pennock.

Fossil bones of a new genus of extinct Ruminants, consisting of the cranium and parts of a humerus, ulna, and radius. Deposited by Mr. Joseph Culbertson, of Chambersburg, Penn.

Cranium of Vulpes fulvus. Deposited by Dr. Morton.

Native silver from Guanaxato, Mexico. Presented by Dr. Griffith.

Specimen of Loxia cardinalis. From Mr. Phillips.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

American Journal of Science and Arts. New Series. Vol. 4. No. 12. From the Editors.

On the inhalation of the vapour of ether in surgical operations. By John Snow, M. D. 8vo. London, 1847. From Mr. Lambert.

A Medico-botanical catalogue of the plants and ferns of St. Johns, Berkley, S. C. An inaugural thesis for the degree of M. D. By Francis Peyre Porcher. 8vo. pamphlet. Charleston, S. C.1847. From the author.

Literary Record and Journal of the Linnean Association of Pennsylvania College. Vol. 4. No. 1. From the Association.

The Geognosy of the Island of St. Helena, in a series of views, plans, and sections, with remarks and observations. By Robert F. Seale. Folio. London, 1834. From Mr. Saml. Ashmead.

Dr. Wilson deposited the following:

An analysis of the British Ferns and their allies. By G. W. Francis, F. L. S. 2d edition. 8vo. London, 1842.

A history of British Ferns and allied plants. By Edward Newman, F. L. S. 8vo. London, 1844.

The Natural history of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands, &c. By Mark Catesby, F. R. S. 2 vols. Folio. London, 1731.

The Genera of Diurnal Lepidoptera. By Edward Doubleday, F. R. S. Part 12. 4to.

The Genera of Birds. By Geo. Robert Gray, F. R. S. Part 41. 4to.

The Annals and Magazine of Natural History. No. 133.

An outline of the Geology of Norfolk. By Samuel Woodward. 8vo. Norwich, 1733.

The Zoologist's Text Book, &c. By Capt. Thomas Brown. 2 vols. 12mo. Glasgow, 1832.

Mémoires presentés a l'Academie Imperiale des Science de St. Petersburg. Vols. 1—5, and vol. 6, No. 2. 4to.

Dr. Griffith deposited the following:

Symbolæ ad historiam Heliceorum. Auctore Dr. Lud. Pfeiffer. 8vo. Casselis, 1841.

Philosophie Anatomique ; Des Organs Respiratoires sous le rapport de la determination et de l'identité de leurs piéces osseuses ; par M. le Ch. Geoffroy St. Hilaire. 1 vol. 8vo. and Atlas. 4to. Paris, 1818.

The Naturalist's Library : conducted by Sir. Wm. Jardine ; Mammalia 6 vols., Ornithology, 8 vols.; Icthyology, 1 vol. Entomology, 4 vols. 12mo.

Species général et Iconographie des Coquilles vivantes, &c. Par L. C. Kiener. 8vo.

A letter was read from Mr. Richard Brown, of Nova Scotia, addressed to Prof. Johnson, dated Sydney Mines, 27th Oct. 1847, containing the following in relation to some Fossil fruits from the coal steam of that district:

These Fossils were found in one part of the mine only, scattered over an area of three or four acres, in some places so thick that five or six might be found in one square yard. They lie in the Shale Roof immediately in contact with the Coal Seam.

Upright stems of Lepidodendra and Sigillariæ, with Stigmaria-like roots, are frequent in the same area, the fruits being sometimes found under their roots. I have broken up several of these Fossils, and found decisive marks of internal structure exhibiting their membranes of carbonaceous matter, and small pipes of Iron Pyrites terminating in scars on the external surface, supposed to be seed cells. I cannot find any decribed fossils resembling them more nearly than the Fruit of Podocarya from the oolite, in Buckland's Bridgewater Treatise.

A letter was read from Mr. Wm. Thompson, addressed to Dr. Griffith, dated Tunbridge Wells, Oct., 1857, announcing his intention to present certain Mollusca nudibranchiata, in spirits, and British Echinodermata and marine Algæ, and also some fossils, to the Academy.

Dr. Leidy read a paper "On a new genus and species of Fossil Ruminantia, Poëbrotherium *Wilsonii*;" which was referred to a committee composed of Drs. Pickering, Bridges, and Morton.

Dr. Hallowell communicated a paper on the "Horned. Viper of Western Africa," with a figure. Referred to Prof Haldeman, Dr. Pickering and Dr. Leidy.

Professor Johnson exhibited a specimen of a boiler sediment derived from a steam boiler used at Burlington, New Jersey, which uses clear spring water. It is dark brown, has a specific gravity of 1.235, contains 34.88 per cent. of earthy residue, and 65.12 per cent., of combustible material, melting only at 900—1000 degrees, though it softens at 260, and exhales an empyreumatic odour at 430° ; and at 450° becomes reddish-brown and brittle. The sediment pulverized and boiled in alcohol gave, by slow evaporation, an oily substance, which separates in a white hydrated condition—but the water is lost below the boiling point of alcohol, leaving the oil a reddish-brown, capable of softening at 150°, and becoming fluid at 180°. The earthy matter contains carbonate of lime and magnesia, as well as silicate of alumina and oxide of iron.

Prof. Johnson also offered some observations on the fossil bones from Dr. Joel Y. Shelly, deposited this evening, which, from the appearance of the rock adhering to the specimens, he judged to belong to the formation which overlies the edges of the Silurian rocks of the south mountains, and which is believed to be of the same age as the so called Potomac marble.

Meeting for Business, Nov. 20, 1847.

Vice President MORTON in the Chair.

The Committee on Dr. Hallowell's paper, on the Horned Viper of Western Africa, reported in favor of publication :

On the Horned Viper of Western Africa.

BY EDWARD HALLOWELL, M. D.

CERASTES, Wagler.

*Cerastes** *nasicornis.*

Syn. Coluber nasicornis. Shaw, General Zoology, p. 198.

Characters.—Head short and thick, two horns upon the snout, mouth large ; a series of oblong quadrilateral bands upon the back, margined with triangular spots of black ; a row of dark colored blotches upon each side of the animal in contact with the abdomen ; between these and the triangular lateral blotches, other triangular dark colored spots with their bases toward each other ; tail short.

Descriptions.—Physiognomy very repulsive ; *head* short and thick, depressed, presenting two horns, each four lines in length upon the snout ; opening of the mouth large, extending to within five lines of the posterior margin of the occiput ; two large and powerful fangs on each side of the upper jaw ; head covered with rhomboidal, hexagonal, and polygonal scales which are carinated ; the scales are largest upon the occiput and sides of the head posteriorly ; nostrils large, two lines in diameter, presenting upward and slightly backward ; eyes rather small, latero-superior, on a line with the nostrils, and three lines posterior to them, slightly projecting, looking outward and a little upward ; palatine and infra maxillary teeth recurved, sharp, pointed and strongly developed ; tongue long, bifid

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* Misprinted *Arastes* in the Proceedings, vol. ii. p. 250.